

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, some unauthorised hawkers travelling in trains have been detected.

(d) Surprise checks are conducted from time to time jointly by Commercial and Railway Protection Force/Govt. Railway Police personnel to apprehend unauthorised hawkers/vendors travelling in trains. The persons so apprehended are dealt with in accordance with law.

Quality Education to Economically Backward Students

4126. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide quality education to the economically backward students to improve their lots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE) envisages a national system of education, whereby upto a given level all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex would have access to education of a comparable quality. Following NPE, the Government launched a number of schemes like the Operation Blackboard, restructuring and reorganisation of teacher education, programme for improving science education, computer literacy in schools, and educational technology.

As envisaged by NPE, Navodaya Vidyalayas are being set up to provide quality education to children with special

talent or aptitude, largely from a rural background.

AIDS Menace in Bombay

4127. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIDS may strike Bombay in three years" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated September 23, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The Government has seen the news item.

(b) According to the latest report received from Maharashtra Government, out of a total no. of 1,06,910 persons screened upto 1,11,91, 3232 have been tested for HIV sero-positive. The total no. of AIDS cases reported from Maharashtra as 53. Out of the 1,06,910 samples tested, 44,744 samples belonged to be hetero-sexual promiscuous persons. In this group, 1341 samples were found to be sero-positive and this constituted nearly 5% of the samples screened of the group.

As preventive measures against AIDS, the Govt. have established:-

- (i) Surveillance centres for screening blood of high risk groups.